



Iowa Department of Human Services

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1493

DATE: March 12, 2015

TO: Iowa Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Providers, Targeted Case Managers and Department of Human Services (DHS) Service Workers

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: HCBS Settings Transition Plan Public Comment Period

This is an update to [Informational Letter No. 1436](#)¹. In January 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published regulations to better define the settings in which states can provide Medicaid HCBS waiver services. The final rule became effective March 17, 2014. The purpose of these regulations is to ensure that individuals receive Medicaid HCBS waiver services in settings that are integrated in and support full access to the greater community. The regulations will also ensure that members have a choice in where they live and who provides their services.

The IME has submitted transition plans for each of the seven waiver programs and must also submit a statewide transition plan. The IME has prepared a draft version of the statewide settings transition plan and it is available for public comment from March 16, 2015, through April 15, 2015. The plan is posted on the [Home and Community Based Services \(HCBS\) webpage](#)² along with other related documents. For persons without internet access, the statewide settings transition plan is also available for public review at the Department of Human Services County offices. These materials are also being distributed to provider associations, consumer advocacy organizations and other potentially interested stakeholders.

Comments on the draft statewide transition plan should be submitted in writing to: HCBSsettings@dhs.state.ia.us or mailed to: Don Gookin, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, 100 Army Post Road, Des Moines, Iowa 50315. Comments received may be reviewed by the public by contacting Mr. Gookin at the above address.

All comments will be reviewed, summarized, and responses developed. Appropriate suggestions will be incorporated into the transition plans and responses to public comments will be posted on the DHS website.

Please submit any questions to HCBSsettings@dhs.state.ia.us.

¹<https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1436%20HCBS%20Settings%20Transition%20Plan%20Public%20Comment%20Period.pdf>

²<http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/HCBS>